

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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HUGH C. VINSON
ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHRISTOPHER J. ADAMS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
PARKER J. DURHAM
MICHAEL E. HENRY
MICHAEL D. NORDSTROM

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 24, 2012

6:03 P.M. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Spratt. Following the pledge of allegiance Reverend Talley gave the opening prayer. The Mayor added a special prayer for Councilmember Nordstrom and Terri Era whose father in-law had just passed away. Councilmember Nordstrom was absent due to being in the hospital waiting for by-pass surgery.

Roll call was taken, in attendance were Councilmembers Adams, Cephas, Durham and Henry, and also in attendance were Mayor Spratt and Clerk Avery.

Approval of the minutes of the September 10th regular meeting and agenda for the September 24th meeting was called for. In both cases Councilmember Adams made motion to approve and seconded by Councilmember Henry. Both motions passed all in favor with none opposed, 4 to 0.

6:07 P.M. Attorney Vinson arrived and apologized for being late due to a doctor's appointment.

Mayor Spratt reported that there is now a Red Box at the Family Dollar Store and that the old brick building at Amick has been completely demolished and all the rubbish has been removed. The appearance coming into town from Federalsburg is much improved. The Mayor explained the trash company's policy regarding the amount of trash that is allowable, all trash all will be picked up and up to four bags of yard trash excluding grass clippings which are not allowed because of the weight. Fall Fest report included information from the Mayor and Earl Murphy about the bands that will perform and the number of food vendors. Councilmember Cephas asked Mr. Murphy for a report documenting what he has personally done for the event. Mr. Murphy stated that he has helped the Town where ever he could and will act as M.C. for the day. Councilmember Cephas asked what can the Council do to enhance the event. The Mayor responded it would be good for the Councilmembers to mingle with the people. Earl explained that assignments were made for different aspects of the event and organizing the event

Required a tremendous effort by all who are involved. Councilmember Cephas recommended that the Town looked at the scope of the event so in the future the Town can handle even larger events.

6:30 P.M. Rick Price gave his County Council report. The County commission to redistrict for the 2014 elections will make its report to the County Council January 8, 2013. The State Highway Administration will be at the November 13, 2012 County Council meeting to hear requests for road work to be included in future budgets. Mr. Price confirmed that repaving of Rt. 331 through town is on the list to be presented to the State. A request to restore highway user funds will also be made. The Mayor stated that the Town was just notified that there will be further reductions in the HSF this year. Mr. Price stated that the State is shifting more of the responsibility for funding teacher's pensions to the counties. There is a question if the State is going to assume more of the financial responsibility for Watershed Implementation Plan from the counties or loosen the restrictions. The budget item for Delmarva Community Services passed; 59,000 dollars of the 65,000 approved will qualify for matching funds from the State to help with the cost of transportation. DCS will not alter the transportation service they are currently providing. The County has introduced mapping for the State required tier system for septic systems. If the County does not approve the mapping the adopted SB 236 will force the requirements on the County. Dorchester County recently purchased a job fair van from the State to promote business and economic development in the County. Mr. Price said that he would do whatever he could to support the parade.

6:40 P.M. Chief Hutton gave the police report and asked Mr. Price why Hurlock is only getting a little over \$1,000 of the \$65,000 the County received for police aid; he further asked if Mr. Price would argue for a bigger piece from the County. Chief Hutton announced the September 29th there is a collection at the Train Station for unwanted drugs, fliers have been distributed explaining the program and stating it does not matter where they come from.

A question was posed as to what is going to happen to the Hurlock Village Apartments. Councilmember Durham commented that in a foreclosure the Town has no input and it is not a municipal issue. Clerk Avery explained that the Town does not lose property taxes on foreclosure properties however it may take longer to get the taxes. Revenue would be lost on water and sewer bills if the apartments are vacant. Councilmember Cephas explained how vouchers for Section 8 housing would work from the USDA. There are concerns about more boarded up property and the fact the tenants are the ones that are going to suffer. The Mayor asked why they would have to move right away, Mr. Cephas answered that they may not have adequate time to find alternate housing. Mr. Vinson stated that on Mondays there are attorneys in the Court House from noon until 3 P.M. that will meet with people for advice on legal matters. That service is free. Councilmember Durham stated that it is a terrible situation and the realty company has lost the property to the bank. He also encouraged people to be proactive in helping people to find resources and not delay as the situation will not correct itself.

The Mayor explained to Council that Councilmember Nordstrom could be out for as long as 8 weeks due to his recovery period. The Mayor asked if they would approve of Mr. Nordstrom voting on municipal issues on speaker phone. Attorney Vinson said he would check on the legality of voting by phone. The Councilmembers spoke in favor of the idea of being allowed to vote by phone when members are not present due to illness. Councilmember Durham's only concern would be that the absent member would have full access to discussions on the topic in question.

A concern was stated about the mosquito population and it was explained that the County sprays every year to control mosquitos. It was also stated the Town's rubbish pile along Neilson Street has been removed and that area is being cleaned up.

Councilmember Adams asked if the Code Enforcement Officer would be making routine reports to the Council the answer was yes reports would be made monthly.

7:05 P.M. Following a 4 in favor, none opposed vote the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted;

John Avery
Clerk/Treasurer

*Passed 10/9/12
4/0
Nordstrom absent*